

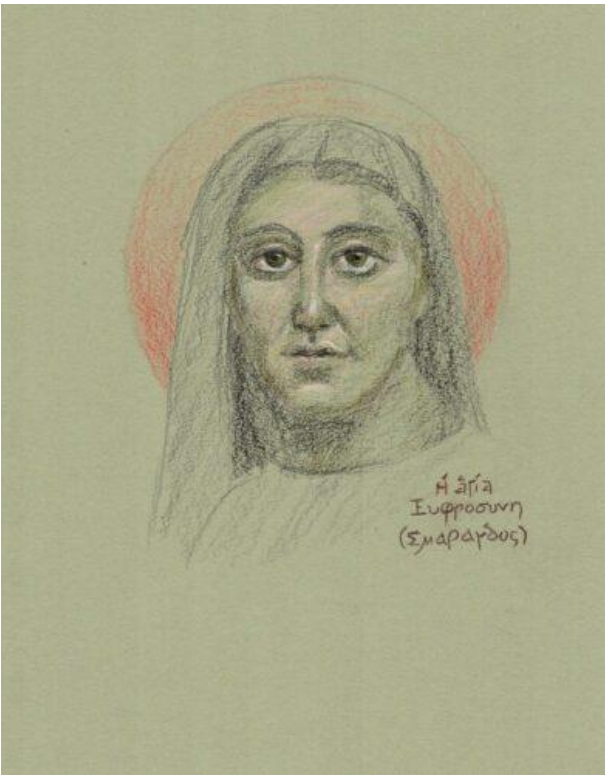
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church



Saint Stephen's welcomes everyone who wishes to follow Christ, worship together, grow in faith and share God's love through service to others.

FEAST OF EUPHROSYNE/SMARAGDUS OF ALEXANDRIA

Wednesday, 27 September 2023 9:30am



From Wikipedia

Euphrosyne of Alexandria (Greek: Ἁγία Εὐφροσύνη tr. "good cheer", 410–470),^{[1][2]} also called **Euphrosynē**,^[3] was a [saint](#) who disguised herself as a male to enter a [monastery](#) and live, for 38 years, as an [ascetic](#). Her [feast day](#) is celebrated on September 25 by the [Greek Orthodox Church](#), [Episcopal Church](#), as well as [Byzantine Rite Catholics](#), and January 16 by the [Roman Catholic Church](#). Euphrosyne was born to a wealthy family in [Alexandria](#); her father Paphnutius was a devout Christian and her mother died when Euphrosyne was twelve. When she was 18, her father wanted her to marry, so she escaped, disguised as a man, and entered the same monastery he often visited for spiritual counsel. She spent most of her years as a monk in seclusion because her beauty tempted the other monks. During the final year of her life, Euphrosyne became her father's spiritual director, comforting his grief over losing his only daughter. Eventually, she revealed her identity to him

[Continued Pg11](#)

Salutation:

Presider: Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you
People: and also with you.

Priest: Let us pray the collect for purity together:

All: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Gloria:

186

GLORY TO GOD

Refrain

Glo-ry to God. Glo-ry to God. Glo-ry to God in the high -
est, and on earth peace, on earth peace to peo-ple of good
will. will. A - men. A - men.

1-4 (1st time: to Refrain) to Verses | Final ⊕ Coda

Verse 1

1. We praise you, we bless you, we a-dore you, we
1. glo-ri-fy you, we give you thanks for your great glo-ry,
to Verse 2 or Refrain

1. Lord God, heav'n-ly King, O God, al-might-y Fa-ther.

Verse 2

2. Lord Je-sus Christ, On-ly Be-got-ten Son, Lord God,
2. Lamb of God, Son of the Fa-ther, you take a-way the sins of the world,
2. have mer-cy on us; you take a-way the sins of the world,

2. re-ceive our prayer; you are seat-ed at the right hand,
to Verse 3 or Refrain

2. the right hand of the Fa-ther, have mer-cy on us.

Verse 3

3. For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,
3. you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly
to Coda or Refrain

3. Spir-it, in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther.

The Collect:

Presider: The Lord be with you

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: Let us pray

Merciful God, who looks not with outward eyes but discerns the heart of each: we confess that those whom we love the most are often strangers to us. Give to all parents and children, we pray, the grace to see one another as they truly are and as you have called them to be. All this we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our only mediator and advocate. Amen.

The Readings: *(Please be seated)*

First Reading: A reading from Judges 11:32–40

Jephthah crossed over to the Ammonites to fight against them; and the Lord gave them into his hand. He inflicted a massive defeat on them from Aroer to the neighborhood of Minnith, twenty towns, and as far as Abel-keramim. So the Ammonites were subdued before the people of Israel.

Then Jephthah came to his home at Mizpah; and there was his daughter coming out to meet him with timbrels and with dancing. She was his only child; he had no son or daughter except her. When he saw her, he tore his clothes, and said, “Alas, my daughter! You have brought me very low; you have become the cause of great trouble to me. For I have opened my mouth to the Lord, and I cannot take back my vow.” She said to him, “My father, if you have opened your mouth to the Lord, do to me according to what has gone out of your mouth, now that the Lord has given you vengeance against your enemies, the Ammonites.” And she said to her father, “Let this thing be done for me: Grant me two months, so that I may go and wander on the mountains, and bewail my virginity, my companions and I.” “Go,” he said and sent her away for two months.

So she departed, she and her companions, and bewailed her virginity on the mountains. At the end of two months, she returned to her father, who did with her according to the vow he had made. She had never slept with a man. So there arose an Israelite custom that for four days every year the daughters of Israel would go out to lament the daughter of Jephthah the Gileadite.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Psalm: 19

- 1 The heavens declare the glory of God, *
and the firmament shows his handiwork.**
- 2 One day tells its tale to another, *
and one night imparts knowledge to another.**
- 3 Although they have no words or language, *
and their voices are not heard,**
- 4 Their sound has gone out into all lands, *
and their message to the ends of the world.**
- 5 In the deep has he set a pavilion for the sun; *
it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.**
- 6 It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens
and runs about to the end of it again; *
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.**
- 7 The law of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul; *
the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the innocent.**
- 8 The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart; *
the commandment of the Lord is clear
and gives light to the eyes.**
- 9 The fear of the Lord is clean and endures for ever; *
the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.**
- 10 More to be desired are they than gold,
more than much fine gold, *
sweeter far than honey,
than honey in the comb.**
- 11 By them also is your servant enlightened, *
and in keeping them there is great reward.**
- 12 Who can tell how often he offends? *
cleanse me from my secret faults.**
- 13 Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins;
let them not get dominion over me; *
then shall I be whole and sound,
and innocent of a great offense.**
- 14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my
heart be acceptable in your sight, *
O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.**

Gospel Reading:

Deacon/Reader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
Luke (14:25-33)

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Now large crowds were traveling with Jesus; and he turned and said to them, "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions."

Deacon/Reader The Gospel of the Lord
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON/HOMILY

CONTEMPORARY NICENE CREED: *(please stand as you are able)*

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

Prayers of the People:

Leader: As God's people, called to love one another, let us pray for the needs of the church, the whole human family, and all the world.

For churches of all traditions:

People: That they may discover their unity in the One God and exercise their gifts in service of all, we pray to you, O God.

Leader: For the earth that it may be freed from war, famine, and disease,

People: And the air, soil, and waters be cleansed of poisons, we pray to you, O God.

Leader: For those who govern and maintain peace in every land,

People: That they may exercise their powers in obedience to your commands, we pray to you, O God.

Leader: For the strengthening of this nation to pursue just and honorable priorities,

People: So that all peoples may be reconciled; the young, educated; and the old, cared for; the hungry, filled; and the homeless, housed; and the sick, comforted and healed, we pray to you, O God.

Leader: For all who live and work in this town and county,

People: Preserve them in peace and safety, we pray to you, O God.

Leader: For those who face any difficulty or trial: the sick, the disabled, the poor, the oppressed, those who grieve and those in prison,

People: That you will comfort and empower them, we pray to you, O God.

Leader: Accept our thanksgiving for all faithful servants of Christ who entered their eternal rest,

People: Who, with us, await a new heaven and a new earth, your everlasting kingdom, we pray to you, O God.

Leader: In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer pray for **The Diocese of Aipo Rongo – The Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea.**

People: May God bless and keep them.

Leader: In the Diocesan cycle of prayer we pray for **Emmause Church Plant in Surprise.**

People: May God bless and keep them.

Leader: We pray for the first peoples of this land, especially the Apache and Tahona Odum peoples who call this area home.

People: May God bless and keep them.

Presider: Mighty God, whose Word we trust, whose Spirit enables us to pray: Accept our requests and further those which will bring about your purpose for the earth; through Jesus Christ, who rules over all things. **Amen.**

The Confession:

Deacon: Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and one another:

All: Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be; that we may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

Presider: May the God of love and power forgive you and free you from your sins, heal and strengthen you by his Spirit, and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace:

Presider: May the peace of the Lord be always with you!

People: And also with you.

(The people exchange greetings of peace)

Offertory:

Presider Walk in love as Christ loved us and gave himself for us as an offering and sacrifice to God

The Doxology:

#380 vs 3

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise him all creatures here below
Praise him above ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

The Lord's Supper: The Great Thanksgiving - CofE Prayer D

Presider: The Lord is here.

People: His Spirit is with us.

Presider: Lift up your hearts

People: We lift them up to the Lord

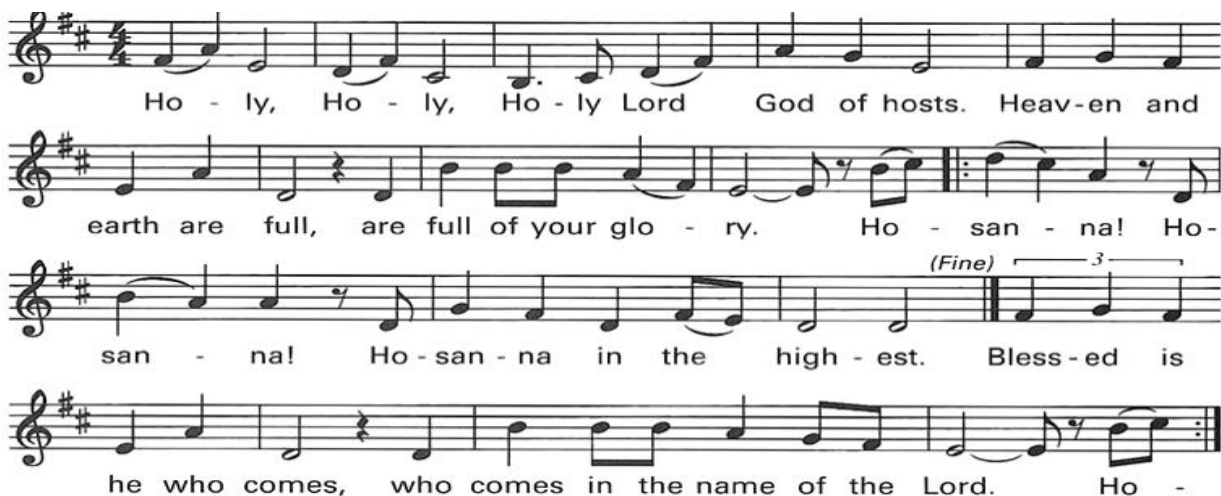
Presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Presider continues:

Almighty God, your face is turned towards your world. In love you gave us Jesus your Son to assure us of pardon and everlasting life. Your Word goes out to call us home to the places where angels sing your praise. We join with them in heaven's song:

Sanctus (from Journeysongs #189)



Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord God of hosts. Heav-en and
earth are full, are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na! Ho -
san - na! Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is
he who comes, who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The piece concludes with a triplet of notes marked '(Fine)'.

Father of all, we give you thanks for every gift that comes from heaven. To the darkness Jesus came as your light. With signs of faith and words of hope he touched untouchables with love and washed the guilty clean. This is his story.

All This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.

The crowds came out to see your Son, yet at the end they turned on him.

On the night he was betrayed he came to table with his friends to celebrate the freedom of your people. This is his story.

All This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.

Jesus blessed you, Father, for the food. He took the bread, gave thanks, broke it and said: "Take, eat: this is my body, given for you all. Do this in remembrance of me."

Jesus then gave thanks for the wine. He took the cup, gave it to them and said: "This is my blood, shed for you all for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me." This is our story.

All This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.

Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup (+) blessed by your Holy Spirit, we celebrate Jesus' last supper before he died to show his love for us. Defying death he rose again and is alive with you to respond to our entreaties and to answer the cares of the world. This is our story.

All This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.

Send your Spirit upon us now (+) that by these gifts we may feed on Christ with opened eyes and hearts on fire. May we and all who share this food offer ourselves to live for you and be welcomed at your feast in heaven where all creation worships you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

*All **Blessing and honor and glory and power be yours for ever and ever.**
Amen.*

Presider: And now as Jesus has taught us, we pray:

CONTEMPORARY LORD'S PRAYER:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven, Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread: *(Presider breaks the consecrated bread in silence)*
(from Journeysongs #194)

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a repeat sign and contains the lyrics: "*Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the". The second staff starts with a first ending bracket labeled "1..." and ends with a double bar line labeled "Final". The lyrics for the second staff are: "world, have mer-cy on us. world, grant us peace."

Invitation to Communion:

Presider: The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith and with thanksgiving.

Everyone is invited and welcome to receive communion in this church. The bread is gluten free and it is real wine. If you prefer to intinct/dip your bread into the wine please come to the left altar rail. If you prefer to sip the wine from the cup, please come to the right altar rail. If you are not ready to receive the bread and wine with us, you may come forward, cross your arms over your chest and receive a blessing from the priest instead.

Birthdays, Anniversaries, Healing, Travel, Gratitude

Post Communion Prayer:

Presider: Let us pray:

All: **Father of all, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.**

Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Benediction:

Presider: May our Lord Jesus Christ be with you to defend you, within you to keep you, before you to lead you, beside you to guard you, and above you to bless you, in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Dismissal:

Deacon: People of St. Stephen's, what does God call us to do?

People: **We are called to love and serve.**

Deacon: Let us go forth in the power of God's Spirit, Alleluia, alleluia!

People: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

Postlude: Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus, based on Webb by George Webb, arr
Hugh S. Livingston, Jr

Please join us for a time of refreshments and fellowship in the Parish Hall.

Continued from front

and they reconciled. After she died, he entered her monastery and became an ascetic himself, living in her cell until he died ten years later.

Life

Euphrosyne was born in 410,^[4] into a "rich and illustrious"^[5] family in Alexandria, the only daughter of Paphnutius, "a deeply believing and pious Christian".^[6] According to [Johann Peter Kirsch](#) in the [Catholic Encyclopedia](#), "Her story belongs to that group of legends which relate how Christian [virgins](#), in order to more successfully to lead the life of [celibacy](#) and [asceticism](#) to which they had dedicated themselves, put on male attire and passed for men".^[7] Paphnutius and his wife were having difficulty having children, so he went to a local [monastery](#), which he visited often, and requested that the [abbot](#), who was his spiritual advisor, and [monks](#) pray for them; Euphrosyne was born shortly afterwards.^{[6][8]} She was baptized at the age of seven, educated in the scriptures, and was well known for her wisdom and love of learning.^{[4][8]}

When Euphrosyne was twelve, her mother died and her father raised her alone. When she was 18, she had many suitors, so her father chose the most noble and wealthiest for her to marry. They visited the monastery together to receive a blessing from the abbot for her marriage, which he did, but the visit inspired Euphrosyne to enter the [monastic](#) life.^{[4][5][8][9]} As writer David Clark put it, she was "unwilling to allow her gender to be a barrier to adopting this lifestyle for herself".^[9] A year later, the abbot sent a monk to Paphnutius' home to invite him to the anniversary celebration of the abbot's ordination; she met with the monk, and admitted to him her wish to become an [ascetic](#), despite her fears of disobeying her father.^[9] The monk advised her to disguise herself as a man "to escape her impending marriage".^[10] She sent a servant to bring another monk to her, a [hermit](#) from [Scete](#), who gave her the same advice. At her request, the monk shaved her head and invested her as a monk.^[10] When her father left home for another spiritual retreat, Euphrosyne took advantage of his absence and decided to join a monastery, the same one her father visited, instead of a convent, because she was afraid that her father would find her. She disguised herself as a man, claiming to be a [eunuch](#); the abbot did not recognize her, and welcomed her into the monastery. Euphrosyne took the name Smaragdus, and lived there as a monk for 38 years, until her death in about 470.^{[4][7][6][10]}

Euphrosyne, as Smaragdus, impressed the abbot with "the rapid strides which she made toward a perfect ascetic life",^[7] but as writer Laura Swan put it, "Dissension arose in the community over Euphrosyne's beauty, and the same abbot ordered her into seclusion".^[4]

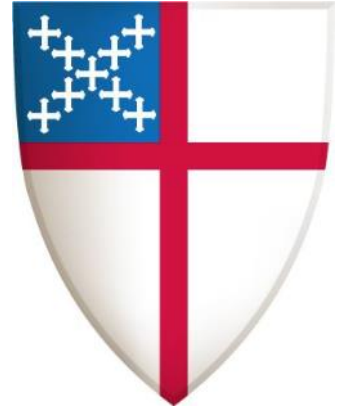
Smaragdus moved deeper into the desert to a solitary cell, reciting his prayers alone, without the rest of the community, and as Swan also said, grew to love "the intense solitude",^[11] eventually only seeing his spiritual director and the abbot.^{[8][12]} Clark, in his chapter about Euphrosyne in his book *Between Medieval Men: Male Friendship and Desire in Early Medieval English Literature*, compares her story with the story of [Joseph](#) in the [Old Testament](#), which also includes themes of disguise and secret identities.^[13] Clark, who considered Smaragdus' fellow monks' discomfort with him another "interesting gender dynamic"^[14] and discusses "the complex and contradictory gender dynamic"^[14] in Euphrosyne's story, also compares Euphrosyne with [Eugenia of Rome](#), a 3rd-century saint who also disguised herself as a man, because they share a "similar dynamic".^[14] Clark also says that Eugenia and Euphrosyne's stories, which both include the aid of servants and the use of disguise to escape into a life of religious seclusion, "are typical of tales of lovers thwarting unwanted marriages. However,

[Cont. online](#)

Notice: All church activities may be internet streamed, video recorded, and photographed for church uses. Entry on to the church campus or in to any church building constitutes consent to be streamed, videotaped, or photographed for church purposes.



2750 Cardinal Dr. Sierra Vista, AZ
85635
<https://ststephensaz.org>
520-458-4432



ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Rector: Allison Cornell
Off. Phone: 520-458-4432
Mobile: 562-743-3784
RevAllison@ststephensaz.org
Parish Administrator
Mark Sowards
Off. Phone 520-458-4432
Mobile: 408-892-1062
mark.sowards@ststephensaz.org
Office Fax: 520-458-8237

Deacon
Dorothy Gutwein
Hm: 520-515-9183
dottie85635@gmail.com
Church Accompanist :
Doreen Oberg
doreenoberg@hotmail.com
Vestry Staff
Senior Warden:
Jeff Speer
jeffrey5454speer@gmail.com
Cell:(520) 678-5688
Please leave voicemail message

Junior warden:
Pete Criscuolo
petesacct2014@gmail.com
Cell: 520-234-7687
Treasurer:
Anne Roth
Cell:303/917-8151
avd.roth@comcast.net

Welcome Visitor!!!

Please leave your name and contact info below. If you'd like to speak with someone, please check here

Or you can also use the QRC here to fill this out online.



Info Update Giving Envelopes Mail News Letter

Name _____ (first) _____ (Mid.) _____ (Last)

Hm: _____ Cell _____

Email: _____ Anv. Date _____

Adrs: _____ BrthDay _____

City, St., Zip: _____, _____, _____